

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
 )  
 Ichio AKAMI et al. ) ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH  
 )  
 Serial No.: Continuation of 10/288,369 )  
 )  
 Continuation Filed: January 21, 2004 ) Attorney Docket No.:  
 ) 000004-00682  
 FOR: **BENDING PRESS SYSTEM** )  
 ) Date: January 21, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before examination of the above-captioned application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-39 without prejudice to the subject matter therein.

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation application of Serial No. 10/288,369, filed November 6, 2002. This Preliminary Amendment is filed to permit continued examination of claims 40-42 which were cancelled without prejudice in the parent application.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000004.00682).

Respectfully submitted,

Ichio AKAMI et al.

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